

Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project and earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Baker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Social Security as its 75th birthday nears.

Social Security is among the most important programs ever created by our Government. Older Americans have worked hard and made sacrifices to ensure a better, stronger country for future generations. They deserve a secure, healthy retirement.

Without Social Security, one out of every two seniors would fall into poverty, and the disabled and survivors—including millions of children—would find themselves without this critical safety net in their time of need.

In my district alone, over 120,000 people received Social Security benefits in 2009, including over 77,000 seniors and nearly 13,000 children who receive benefits because a family member has retired, become disabled, or died. Today, as we approach its 75th anniversary, Social Security is once again under assault by Congressional Republicans.

The ranking Republican member on the House Committee on the Budget introduced H.R. 4529, the Roadmap for America's Future, which purports to rescue and strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, allowing them to fulfill their missions and making them permanently solvent—all while putting the federal budget on a sustainable path. If this were true, I would be the first in line to cosponsor the legislation.

However, independent analysis of the bill revealed the plan would raise taxes for most middle-income families, privatize a substantial portion of Social Security, and replace Medicare with a voucher system that would cover fewer and fewer health care services as the years went by.

What I find most disturbing about this proposal is the failure to acknowledge a connection between the recent volatility of the stock market and the effect that would have on privatized Social Security accounts.

When a trillion dollars of wealth can disappear in 30 minutes, as it did on May 6, 2010, we know that the stock market is not the place for seniors' life savings. Privatization, or partial privatization, of the Social Security system would have been disastrous for millions of senior citizens that depend on their Social Security checks every month.

Too many seniors in this country saw their retirement savings decimated by President Bush's economic crisis. I rise today to assure

seniors that I and the Democrats in Congress will continue to stand firmly opposed to any and all efforts to privatize Social Security. Seniors can count on us to preserve Social Security for both current beneficiaries and generations to come.

#### TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, today marks the 35th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The 1974 invasion claimed the lives of approximately 5,000 Greek Cypriots, while 200,000 were forcefully expelled from their homes. This is a dark chapter not only for Hellenes, but for all of Europe.

As this occupation continues, nearly 43,000 Turkish soldiers—nearly one soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots—are embedded in Cyprus, occupying over 35 percent of the island. This occupied area is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

Yet despite this military presence, Turkish and Greek Cypriots live in relative harmony. Since Ledra Street was opened, connecting occupied Cyprus to the south, over 13 million Greek and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the partition without incident. One can't help but wonder whom the Turkish military is protecting.

While Turkey's influence continues to wreak havoc on reunification negotiations, Cypriot President Demetrius Christofias continues to make the solution to the Cyprus problem his top priority. Having met with him in Nicosia last year, his commitment to finding a solution greatly impressed me. There was certainly no lack of will on the Greek Cypriot side.

To conclude, as we remember the invasion that split Cyprus in two, it is important to note that there are concrete efforts underway by the heads of the respective communities to reunify. Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike want to see a solution. What stands in the way is Turkey. If it still cares about ascending to the European Union, Turkey would be wise to remove its troops and stop impeding progress. For the sake of Cyprus, I hope Turkey wakes up.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote No. 448 on H. Res. 1472, rollcall vote No. 449 on H. Con. Res. 126, and rollcall vote No. 450 on H. Res. 1219. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

#### HONORING ZACHARY AULGUR

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Aulgur. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project and earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Aulgur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate once again the anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, beginning in 1974, lasting up to the present time. The division of Cyprus has wreaked havoc on the island nation and left its Turkish-occupied section in disarray. It is cruel that the Cypriot people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

This anniversary is particularly troubling, given Turkey's role in recent events in the Mediterranean. In May, the Turkish government supported a flotilla of boats attempting to run Israel's blockade of Gaza. Those so-called "peace activists" attacked the Israeli soldiers with bats, clubs and bricks, demonstrating their real intent: to harm Israel, rather than to help the people of Gaza.

In the aftermath of these events, Turkey had the audacity to criticize Israel's behavior toward Gaza, as though they themselves had "clean hands." Before they criticize Israel, the world must remember that Turkey has occupied and continues to occupy Cyprus, for no apparent reason, other than to increase their own sphere of influence in the region.

I hope Turkey will do in Cyprus as Israel did in Gaza: remove their troops and grant the people there a chance to govern themselves, without foreign interference. Unfortunately, the people of Gaza turned to violence rather than peaceful coexistence with their neighbor. By contrast, I believe the people of Cyprus are truly ready for peace, as has been demonstrated by the millions of incident-free crossings between the two sides. It is time for Turkey to remove their troops from Cyprus. That way, the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—can make the decisions affecting their future.